IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Chesser, et al.	§	**Group Art Unit: 1721**
Serial No.: 08/869,109	§	
Filed: June 4, 1997	§	**Examiner: C. H. Kelly**
For: Controlled Hydration of Starch in High Density Brine Dispersion	§	**Atty. Docket: B154-9245-US**

DECLARATION OF BILLY CHESSER UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, WILLIAM CHESSER, declare as follows:

1. I am an inventor in the referenced application. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

2. I received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering degree from Texas A&M University in 1950. I was a Drilling Engineer for Sun Oil Company from 1950 to 1962. I have worked for almost 36 years at Baker Hughes INTEQ (and its predecessors) in Houston, Texas, either in the field or developing products for the field in the area of drilling fluids. Currently, I am a Senior Scientist at Baker Hughes INTEQ.

3. A predispersion of BIOPAQ is prepared by heating 350cc of 11.6 lb/gal $CaBr_2$ brine to 115°F and adding 50 g of the starch to the brine continuously and uniformly while stirring vigorously. A paddle mixer at 300-400 rpm was used to agitate the mixture.

4. The predispersion of paragraph 3 was used to prepare FLUID A in Example 1, pp. 7-8 of the patent specification referenced above.

5. FLUID B in Example 1 was prepared using tripropylene glycol as a solvating agent for the "BIOPAQ (powder)" listed on page 7.

6. When fresh water or aqueous solutions of monovalent salts, such as sodium chloride, were used to prehydrate the claimed water-soluble polymers, and those polymers were added to a final brine and the final brine subjected to heat equivalent to temperatures that might be experienced downhole, those final brines tended to agglomerate and form a highly viscous mass with unsuitable rheology and filtration control properties.

7. The Tables attached to the response to final action are true and correct copies of Tables from the Baker Hughes INTEQ Engineering Handbook

I understand that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNED this 1st day of February, 1999.

Billy D. Chesser

BILLY G. CHESSER